

Weekly News Summary

5th December 2023

British Standard concrete recipe changes to allow more ingredients:

The British Standards Institution has changed its specification for concrete to allow both ground limestone and ash or slag to be added to cement at the same time. The new standard is being described as one of the most significant changes to the traditional 'recipe' for making concrete since the 1980s. The move is expected to offer the potential to save UK construction as much as a million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year, were all sites to exploit it. To read more Click [Here](#)

Builders' merchants' third-quarter volumes down 10%:

Britain's builders' merchants continue to see their sales decline, with a year-on-year decline of 10.5% in third quarter sales volumes. The amount of money taken through the tills – the value of sales – was 3.3% lower in the July-September period this year compared to in 2022, despite prices having gone up by 8%. To read more Click [Here](#)

Keltbray orders top £1 billion: Two major energy awards have taken Keltbray's order book past the £1bn mark. Keltbray reports that its order book has now grown four-fold in the last four years and its value is roughly double the company's annual turnover (which was £528m last year). To read more Click [Here](#)

HS2 completes East-West Rail works at Calvert: HS2 has completed the last section of earthworks that will carry East West Rail (EWR) services between Oxford and Cambridge over the new high-speed line, near the village of Calvert in Buckinghamshire. To reduce disruption for the community and speed up construction, HS2 contractors have built two bridges, one underpass and 3.4km of adjacent earthworks for EWR where the two projects cross. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,464.92	-48.04	-0.64%
DAX	16,421.06	16.3	0.10%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,419.95	5.00	0.11%
S&P 500	4,569.78	-24.85	-0.54%
Nikkei 225	32,775.82	-440.77	-1.33%
Dow Jones	36,204.44	-41.06	-0.11%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,474.80	-44.30	-0.59%

Current value as at 10:52 BST, 5th Dec 2023

ABOUT UKR

UKR is an established construction recruitment agency supplying trades & labour to the UK construction industry. We recruit at all levels across the following disciplines: Construction, Civil Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical, Rail and Utilities on a temporary, contract and permanent basis.

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Glenigan's December Construction Index reveals 25% yearly drop in project starts: Glenigan's December Construction Index paints a bleak picture for the UK construction industry, with project starts plummeting 25% compared to last year. Residential and non-residential sectors were both impacted, signaling a challenging period for the built environment. Glenigan's December Construction Index reveals disappointing results, indicating a consistent decline in new project starts throughout the year. To read more click [Here](#)

Navigating gender inequality in construction and promoting female representation: With the construction industry facing a skills shortage, recognising the potential of women is crucial for economic recovery. Tackling gender inequality in construction is integral to success, and as more women express interest in construction roles, the time is ripe for companies to take meaningful action. The number of women working in the construction industry is rising, having reached a record high of 340,000 in Q2 of 2023, according to ONS data demonstrating the industry's shifting attitudes toward women. To read more click [Here](#)

Green light for new £780m Essex garden village: Brentwood Borough Council has granted planning permission for the £780m Dunton Hills Garden Village. The planning application, submitted by CEG, includes 3,700 new homes, three care homes, a village centre and two neighbourhood hubs which will provide easy access to shops, facilities and services. There will also be three primary schools, a secondary school, children's nurseries and a community sports hub, as well as a football and cricket pitches. To read more click [Here](#)

Keltbray, OCU and Clancy clinch £1bn electricity network upgrade: Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks has signed agreements worth over £1bn with three contractors for significant network upgrades to electricity infrastructure. Keltbray Energy, OCU Services and Clancy will each carry out upgrade works in three allocated areas within SSEN's central southern England distribution area, from Berkshire and West London to Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This is the first time that SSEN Distribution has awarded an agreement of this size and represents one quarter of its overall investment during its RIIO-ED2 business plan. To read more click [Here](#)

Gilbert-Ash takes £30m Tate Liverpool revamp: Tate Liverpool has signed Northern Ireland's Gilbert-Ash as the main contractor for a major reimagining of the landmark gallery on Royal Albert Dock. This near £30m redevelopment of the iconic 1846 warehouse designed by 6a architects recently gained planning permission and listed building consent. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Extension for 2 Flats	Hemel Hempstead	£300,000	04/12/2023
Mixed Use Development (23 Units)	Nottingham	£3,500,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to Flat	Southend-on-sea	£100,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Wakefield	£100,000	04/12/2023
Pool	Stevenage	£100,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to 2 Apartments	Paisley	£200,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Watford	£200,000	04/12/2023
2 Bungalows	Rochester	£300,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to Holiday Let	Derby	£100,000	04/12/2023
2 Dwellings	Portsmouth	£300,000	04/12/2023
Skate Park	Exeter	£100,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Cambridge	£100,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to HMO	Shrewsbury	£100,000	04/12/2023
2 Holiday Lets	Portsmouth	£300,000	04/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Croydon	£100,000	04/12/2023
3 Dwellings	Doncaster	£400,000	04/12/2023
5 Dwellings	Doncaster	£600,000	04/12/2023
Extension to Swimming Pool	Southampton	£100,000	04/12/2023
Sports Facility	Colchester	£100,000	04/12/2023
Mixed Use Development (1 Unit)	Swansea	£200,000	04/12/2023
Playground	Exeter	£100,000	03/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Southend-on-sea	£100,000	03/12/2023
Conversion to HMO	Cambridge	£100,000	03/12/2023
Conversion to 4 Flats	Cambridge	£300,000	03/12/2023
2 Dwellings	Reading	£300,000	03/12/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Dorchester	£100,000	03/12/2023
Conversion to 6 Apartments	York	£400,000	03/12/2023
Conversion to 3 Flats	East London	£200,000	03/12/2023
Industrial Unit	Leeds	£200,000	03/12/2023
7 Dwellings	Newport	£800,000	03/12/2023



Contractor ranked by work won during October 2023

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value	Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
1	Laing O'Rourke	1	£300.0m	26	RED	3	£42.7m
2	Willmott Dixon	8	£214.1m	27	Robertson	7	£42.6m
3	Skanska	1	£158.0m	28	Management & Construction Services	2	£40.5m
4	Bowmer & Kirkland	4	£157.6m	29	Mott MacDonald (JBA Bentley)	6	£36.7m
5	Farrans	2	£155.0m	30	M3 Build	1	£35.0m
6	Morgan Sindall	9	£154.2m	31	Bridgestone Construction	1	£32.0m
7	Ardmore	1	£154.0m	32	Tilbury Douglas	3	£31.3m
8	Galliford Try	6	£126.8m	33	Assured CMS	1	£31.0m
9	Hill Partnerships	3	£101.2m	34	Bouygues	1	£30.0m
10	Wates	5	£100.0m	35	Formation Design & Build	1	£30.0m
11	Glencar	3	£98.0m	36	GRAHAM Construction	2	£30.0m
12	VolkerWessels	2	£83.5m	37	McGoff	1	£30.0m
13	Mace	1	£82.0m	38	Waterman Group Civils	1	£30.0m
14	Kier	6	£81.3m	39	Clegg	3	£28.0m
15	Balfour Beatty	3	£78.5m	40	Illingworth & Gregory	1	£25.0m
16	Henry Boot	3	£71.0m	41	Beard	4	£23.0m
17	J.J. Rhatigan & Co	1	£70.0m	42	Winvic	1	£22.0m
18	Royal BAM	5	£62.4m	43	Readie	2	£21.9m
19	GMI	3	£58.9m	44	GF Tomlinson	2	£21.0m
20	Domis Construction	1	£56.0m	45	Muir Construction	1	£20.0m
21	Countryside	2	£50.1m	46	Pentaco	2	£19.5m
22	TSL	1	£48.0m	47	RG Carter	3	£18.9m
23	Cormac	1	£47.0m	48	Stepnell	2	£18.5m
24	Vermont	1	£45.0m	49	Morrison	2	£17.9m
25	Vital Energi Utilities	1	£45.0m	50	Prima Construction Management	1	£17.4m



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